

Message Text

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15

ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PRS-01 SS-15 NSC-05 SSO-00 NSCE-00

USIE-00 IO-13 AID-05 EB-07 COME-00 OMB-01 TRSE-00

CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 INRE-00 PA-01 /064 W

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O 280945Z APR 76

FM AMEMBASSY GABORONE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7999

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA IMMEDIATE

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KINSHASA FOR SECRETARY'S PARTY

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, BC, RH, US

SUBJECT: PRESS QUERY ON SECRETARY'S SPEECH: REQUEST FOR GUIDANCE

1. CHARGE HAS BEEN CALLED BY RADIO BOTSWANA TO ASK FOR INTERVIEW ON SECRETARY'S LUSAKA SPEECH. DURING DISCUSSION OF POSSIBLE INTERVIEW, CHARGE WAS INFORMED THAT POINT OF GREATEST INTEREST WOULD BE SEVENTH ELEMENT IN SECRETARY'S STATEMENT WITH REGARD TO U.S. POLICY FOR A JUST AND DURABLE SOLUTION TO RHODESIAN PROBLEM, THAT "THE UNITED STATES -- TOGETHER WITH OTHER MEMBERS OF THE UNITED NATIONS -- IS READY TO HELP ALLEVIATE ECONOMIC HARDSHIP FOR ANY COUNTRIES NEIGHBORING RHODESIA WHICH DECIDE TO ENFORCE SANCTIONS BY CLOSING THEIR FRONTIERS."

2. SINCE BOTSWANA IS ONE OF THE COUNTRIES NEIGHBORING RHODESIA AND SINCE IT HAS NOT YET CLOSED ITS BORDER WITH RHODESIA, RADIO BOTSWANA QUESTION IS ALSO LIKELY TO ARISE IN OTHER CONTEXTS INCLUDING OFFICIAL CONVERSATIONS.

3. COMMENT: AS ADDRESSEES AWARE, QUESTION OF BOYCOTT EVEN WITH COMPENSATION IS NOT AN EASY ONE FOR BOTSWANA. CLOSURE OF BORDER WOULD ALMOST CERTAINLY RESULT IN CLOSING DOWN OF RHODESIAN

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RAILWAY SYSTEM WITHIN BOTSWANA, CAUSING CATASTROPHIC ECONOMIC

CONSEQUENCES. BOTSWANA GOVERNMENT IS VERY SENSITIVE TO THIS QUESTION AND ITS AFRICAN ALLIES AND FRIENDS HAVE BEEN CAREFUL NOT TO CRITICIZE BOTSWANA FOR MAINTAINING ITS POSITION TO LEAVE THE BORDER OPEN.

4. FOLLOWING IS PROPOSED RESPONSE TO RADIO BOTSWANA QUERY: THE SECRETARY'S TEN-POINT POLICY REGARDING RHODESIA IS A COMPREHENSIVE EFFORT TO ASSIST IN THE SEARCH FOR A NEGOTIATED SOLUTION TO THE RHODESIAN PROBLEM. IT WAS DEVELOPED PARTLY TO SHOW THE RHODESIAN MINORITY REGIME AS WELL AS OTHERS IN SOUTHERN AFRICA OUR GOVERNMENT'S INTENT IN THAT REGARD. ALL THE COUNTRIES WHO ARE COOPERATING IN THAT SEARCH FOR A PEACEFUL SOLUTION WILL LOOK AT IT IN TERMS OF THEIR OWN CIRCUMSTANCES. AS EACH COUNTRY WORKS OUT ITS OWN COURSE OF ACTION, THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT WITHIN THE GUIDELINES OF THE SECRETARY'S SPEECH WILL TRY TO BE OF ASSISTANCE. AND AS THE SECRETARY SAID, WHAT WE DO WILL BE DONE IN CLOSE CONSULTATIONS WITH THE PRESIDENTS OF THE FOUR COUNTRIES MOST CONCERNED. THE CENTRAL FACT IS THAT THE SECRETARY CAME TO SOUTHERN AFRICA TO STRESS THAT THE UNITED STATES IS WHOLLY COMMITTED TO HELP BRING ABOUT A RAPID, JUST AND AFRICAN SOLUTION TO THE ISSUE OF RHODESIA.

5. REQUEST CONCURRENCE ON ABOVE LINE OR ALTERNATIVE GUIDANCE RE REQUEST FROM RADIO BOTSWANA.

THOMSEN

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Message Attributes

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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To: STATE KINSHASA
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